

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

November 21, 2016, 5:30-6:45 pm

Town Hall Rm 217

Members in attendance: Chris Bennett, Kim Evans, Sarah Needham, Shawna Kitzman, John Minze, Brian Clifford, Terry Schmitt, Jennifer Strassfeld

Members absent: Brian Steckroth

Non-Members in attendance: Helen Rubino-Turco

September Minutes approved

1. Other business
  - a. Dates for 2017 meetings – Chris passed out dates for 2017 meetings. Requested board members to email him with conflicts.
2. Feast on the Farm
  - a. Goal was \$100,000, raised \$75,000 to go towards renovation of the barn.
  - b. Solar panels installed on newer barn, in addition to new roof. Will provide power to barn and outbuildings
  - c. Successful Feast on the Farm
  - d. Might be earlier in September 2017, weather is better, flowers easier, avoids Jewish holidays
3. Wolcott Park Planning
  - a. Community Outreach Phase – Moms and More, Citizens with Disabilities, Bike Alliance, School PTO and Admin, etc.
  - b. Is the park still park of the school's "DNA" – talk with school admin and parents to give them some ownership of the children's forest.
  - c. Next phase is plan development (with Peter Miniutti)
  - d. Community Comments
    - i. Good turn out
    - ii. Reached out to households within a 5 minute walk
    - iii. Draft of plan or at least talking points In January, tweaks will be made until May-ish when the plan will be finalize
4. Community Gardens
  - a. Buena Vista: Broken water lines – replaced, done in house to save money.
  - b. Wolcott: Fence will come down, split rail fence will go up.
5. Cornerstone Pool Management
  - a. Aquatics for Life has managed pool for 15 year. Good at running pool, do receive some complaints about customer service. Contract is up for renewal but no more extensions in current contract so need to do RFP shortly.
    - i. Also developing a plan to bring it in house (similar to the rink)
  - b. Bids to be submitted in early January to Town Council
6. Construction Update

- a. Elmwood Community Center: redid parking adjacent to building to improve handicapped parking, curb and sidewalks. Railing added to sidewalk to lower parking lot.
  - b. WH Senior Center: parking lot work
  - c. Rockledge: new addition on clubhouse (for kitchen storage). Bids due next month to redo the deck, which will hopefully be done by May.
  - d. Cornerstone interior: plans to renovate into handicapped and family changing rooms
  - e. UConn site: Still doing due diligence, diligence phase has been extended. Working on prelim vision work. Don't own it yet, signed the contract \$5 million.
    - i. Field lighting at UConn: Little League wants to put up lights, raised money and gone through zoning. Pathway lighting is a hold up due to expense.
7. Other business
- a. Dog park update: pop up parks, going very well, last weekend was at Eisenhower
    - i. Sunday Dec 18<sup>th</sup> at Fern, 10am-1pm, then January 21<sup>st</sup>
  - b. How much are Federal Funds of Budget? 5% or less. Mainly in federal block grants for low and moderate income neighborhoods. Can be used to enhance handicap accessibility.